

**SUPERHERO CHARACTERISTIC COMPARISON BETWEEN 1938  
SUPERMAN AND 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY IRON MAN AS A REFLECTION OF  
THE AMERICAN ERA**

**THESIS**

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## ABSTRACT

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Superheroes are wellknown throughout the world, they appear in various medias to amuse the people as their role as entertainment. Most of superheroes today come from America, and superhero has become one of the representatives of American society. American superheroes have evolved through time and era along with the American society itself. Since its first appearance, marked with the born of The Superman, at the times of World War II, American superheroes have managed to survive and merged together with the society and become one of its popular cultures.

This research is studying how American superhero develops his characteristics in its attempt to amuse the people reflected on how the social condition at that time of consumption. The focus of this research is to compare the characteristics of the first American superhero stories with American superhero stories today to find how the American society shaped their superhero stories. The first superhero is represented by The 1938 Superman while the present superhero is represented by The Iron Man as the most controversial superhero today.

The result of this research is expressing how the society is reflected within their superhero stories. The 1938 Superman amused his people with hilarious comical and mostly unrealistic. Superman raises the wartime issues and street criminals in his early stories to answer the call of people at that time. While in the other hand, The Iron Man is here to answer the more realistic and critical audience's demands. Iron Man today appears with more human characteristics with his fragility and imperfectness which made him closer to his people. The difference between these two superheroes has showed that superheroes are developing together with the society, superheroes are there to answer the people's need of entertainment. Thus it can be concluded that American superhero stories are the reflection of American society itself.

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